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SOURCE Stalinskoye Znamya, No 98 (2071), 1949.POSTWAR DEVELOPMENT OF ALBANIAN ECONOMY

During the war, most of the mines, factories, and power plants in Albania were either destroyed or plundered of their machinery. Almost all the bridges in Albania and the harbor installations in Durres and Vlora [Valona?] were blown up, and 37 percent of the residential buildings were burned. The State Bank was thoroughly looted.

Through the enthusiastic efforts of the people, and especially through the brigades of volunteer workers formed by the Albanian youth, the water was pumped out of flooded mines, bridges were built over mountain torrents, old roads were repaired and new ones laid. The Durres-Peqin railroad and the paved mountain highway between Kukesi and Poshkopj were built by Albanian youth. Workers at the Kucove and Patos oil wells undertook to restore the oil wells on their own initiative, often working around the clock. By mid-1947, all Albanian industry had been fully restored, and was producing better than in 1938.

Since the war, Albanian workers have been building new factories and plants as well as expanding existing ones. At the end of last year, a major factory for spare parts for motor vehicles was built in Tirana, and the first sugar refinery in Albania was built at Korce. The Tirana-Durres railroad line connecting the capital with the main Albanian seaport was completed this year. A large textile combine is under construction in Tirana. Another sugar refinery to be built this year near Korce will be able to supply all the additional sugar requirements of the country.

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